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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

the 1996 Telecommunications Act is supposed to enable competitive market entry and encouraging new network deployment.

But AT&T and their trade association, US Telecom, have recently petitioned the FCC to take away access to critical unbundled network elements. These unbundled elements are critical last-mile copper and inter-city fiber; the very technology that allows local telecom companies to grow, to expand fiber deployment, and to build new fiber networks to bring faster speeds AND affordable telephone and Internet to the people.

Without access to this unbundled network elements infrastructure, local and competitive Internet Providers are at risk of losing access to a huge portion of our customer base, leading to potentially higher rates, less fiber deployment, and even less options for consumers.

Remember, ATT already was a monopolist once who ruled the world of phone communications: Please don't let this happen again! Broadband competition and competitive deployment to avoid rising Internet costs is critical to us people in the country since many of us live on a budget like many others and I beg you to continue to allow local companies access to all critical unbundled network elements.

Peter Stahl